THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI KAMAL MORARKA): (a) Yes, Sir. Government is aware of recent scientific investigations indicating possible link between the low-dose exposure and radiation-induced cancer. However, some of these findings have also been questioned on scientific grounds The International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP) is examining these reports and we are awaiting the recommendation of ICRP.

(b) No, Sir The Government has not so far studied the full report of Dr John W Gofman However, Government is aware of the summarised contents of the report as published in the news media Basically, the report questions the validity of the revised cancer risk estimates from the atomic bomb survivor data in Japan. The revised estimates were based on the facts that the predictions of Dr J. W. Gofman in 1974 did not match with the cancer deaths actually observed in this population since 1974

(c) and (d) Based on the above mentioned reports the Government does not see any compelling reason at this stage to look into the question of the use of nuclear energy in our country. The Department of Atomic Energy continuously examines and reviews through Atomic Energy Regulatory Board and other committees and task forces the health and safety aspects of nuclear energy at all stages of nuclear fuel cycle It may be pointed out that non-DAE exports are always associated with all committees Task Forces. From the health and safety point of view there is no new development at this stage nor any new data which calls for a denovo examination of the utilization of nuclear energy.

Development of New Catalyst for Converting Gas into Kerosene

1408 SHRI B. K HARIPRASAD Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item appeared in Times of India dated the 29th November, 1990 wherein it has been started that a new Catalyst to turn gas into Kerosene has now developed by National Chemical Laboratory, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether this has been put to pilot plant and field trials; and if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI KAMAL MORARKA). (a) Yes, Sir As reported in the New Delhi edition of Times of India dated 29 10.1990, National Chemical Laboratory (NCL) has developed catalysts involved in conversion of methanol to middle distillates *viz* kerosene and diesel.

(b) Based on the NCL developments the Centre for High Technology, Government of India has approved to support a project to set up a one tonne per day pilot plant at Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), Bombay to ascertain the commercial viability. The design of the pilot plant has been completed paving the way for setting up of the pilot plant.

Engagement of Contract Workers at Paradeep Port

1409 SHRI PRAVAT KUMAR SAMANTARAY Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that about 816 contract workers are allowed to be engaged for 16 hours daily by clearing and forwarding agents at Paradeep Port for loading/unloading of coal wagons inviolation of labour laws when some workers of the Paradeep Port are without work for many years, and

(b) if so, what are the remedial steps proposed to be taken for adherence of labour laws?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN) (a) and (b) The information is being collected